

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the remarks which follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 11-13, 17, and 18.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 11-15, and 17-21 are now pending in this application. Claim 14 has been amended to respond to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph. No new matter is introduced by the amendment. Claim 21 is newly added. Support for new claim 21 can be found in the originally filed claims and in the specification (*e.g.*, at page 5, lines 26-29 and at page 10, lines 4-11).

35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

In the Office Action dated September 26, 2003, the Examiner stated that "Claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement." Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection based on the foregoing amendment and the following reasons.

First, the Examiner stated that "the amended claims remain broadly drawn to screening for compounds with any type of 'memory-restoring activity' in a p53 deficient animal." Applicants have amended claim 14, from which claims 15, 19, 20 and new claim 21 depend, to recite "compounds that improve the deficiency in *long-term memory* are identified as compounds with *long-term memory restoring activity*" (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully contend that amended claim 14 is not broadly drawn to screening for compounds with any type of "memory-restoring activity." Rather, amended claim 14 is drawn to screening for compounds that "improve the deficiency in *long-term memory*."

Second, the Examiner stated that "while applicant has demonstrated that p53 +/- mice could be used to screen compounds for long term memory enhancement, this demonstration does not provide sufficient guidance to convince one of skill in the

art that applicant could screen for compounds in *any* p53 deficient animal.” Applicants have amended claim 14 to recite “administering a test compound to a *heterozygous animal comprising a non-functional allele of the p53 gene*” (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully contend that amended claim 14 is not drawn to screening for compounds in *any* p53 deficient animal. Rather, amended claim 14 is drawn to screening for compounds in a heterozygous, p53-deficient animal.

Finally, the Examiner stated that “applicants’ reference to ‘memory restoring activity’ also directly encompasses another non-enabled screening procedure, namely, testing for compounds that restore specific memories that were once held but were lost over time.” Applicants have amended claim 14 to recite “administering a test compound to a heterozygous animal comprising a non-functional allele of the p53 gene, *wherein the animal exhibits a deficiency in long-term memory* [and] *wherein test compounds that improve the deficiency in long-term memory are identified as compounds with long-term memory restoring activity*” (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully contend that amended claim 14 is not broadly drawn to a method for screening compounds “that restore specific memories that were once held but were lost over time.” Rather, amended claim 14 is drawn to screening for compounds with “long-term memory restoring activity.” For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By M. Scott McBride

FOLEY & LARDNER
777 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Telephone: (414) 297-5529
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

M. Scott McBride
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,008